PUBLIC ORDER EMERGENCY COMMISSION | COMMISSION SUR L'ÉTAT D'URGENCE

Interview Summary: Acting Superintendent Robert Drummond (Ottawa Police Service)

Acting Superintendent Robert Drummond was interviewed by Frank Au, Natalia Rodriguez, Mark Pritchard, Eric Brousseau, Jean-Simon Schoenholz and Misha Boutilier on September 12, September 15, September 22 and October 6, 2022. Questions about this summary should be directed to Jean-Simon Schoenholz.

Intelligence and Project Hendon

From October 2020 to December 2021, Acting Superintendent Drummond was responsible for intelligence. He reported to then Deputy Chief Steve Bell during most of that period. Superintendent Mark Patterson took over this role on or about January 4, 2022.

Acting Superintendent Drummond assisted with this transition. Superintendent Patterson had previously worked in an intelligence role as an Inspector and was familiar with this type of work. This transition occurred during the first week of January.

Acting Superintendent Drummond was familiar with Project Hendon. Project Hendon would send out bi-weekly summaries of intelligence for Ontario that could have an impact on policing. He does not recall when Project Hendon began, but knows it was happening the bulk of the time he was working in intelligence.

In January and February of 2022, Acting Superintendent Drummond was still on the Project Hendon distribution list. On January 6, 2022, Acting Superintendent Drummond made a request to the OPP to have Superintendent Patterson added to the Project Hendon distribution list. Acting Superintendent Drummond made this request as he believes the Project Hendon reports are important documents and of which Superintendent Patterson should be aware. Acting Superintendent Drummond did not specifically speak to Superintendent Patterson about the Hendon Reports in January 2022. Project Hendon did not exist when Superintendent Patterson had previously worked in intelligence, although he would have received updates from the province, police and other partners.

Acting Superintendent Drummond is aware that former Chief Peter Sloly and Inspector Jim Elves were also on the same Project Hendon distribution list.

Acting Superintendent Drummond does not recall if he continued reviewing Project Hendon reports after transitioning from the intelligence role. He does not have a specific recollection of their content. It was no longer a part of his role and he had added Superintendent Patterson to the mailing list.

Information Directorate

In January 2022, Acting Superintendent Drummond became responsible for the Information Directorate. This includes dispatching, the operation of the command centre for patrol operations, court operations, evidence control and front desk services. It does not include intelligence on a day-to-date basis. Acting Superintendent Drummond did, however, attend a Superintendent-level intelligence briefing on January 26, 2022. Acting Superintendent Drummond was not involved in special events planning for the demonstration.

Acting Superintendent Robert Bernier was working within the Information Directorate and reporting to Acting Superintendent Drummond. Acting Superintendent Drummond does not believe he attended a meeting with Acting Superintendent Bernier on January 18, 2022 where he would have raised concerns about planning for the arrival of the Convoy.

Acting Superintendent Drummond's role with the Information Directorate was busy and did not include managing intelligence reports or reviewing Project Hendon reports. This is why he made efforts to ensure that the new command structure was aware of them.

He was aware by January 20, 2022 that the OPS was planning for the Convoy's arrival but he was not part of the planning meetings at this point.

Planning for the Convoy's Arrival

On January 26, 2022, Acting Superintendent Drummond attended his first formal briefing on the Convoy. It was hosted by Superintendent Patterson. He advised that it was a fluid situation. Inspector Russel Lucas provided an overview of planning for the event. At this time, OPS was planning for a weekend event including thousands of trucks.

Acting Superintendent Drummond attended another briefing on January 28, 2022. They described the traffic plan. He understood that the plan was to let all the trucks stack on Wellington and that overflow parking would be available on Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway (**SJAM**) and at Coventry Road.

OPS had managed many protests on Wellington. In the past, protesters had not stayed for significant periods. In the past, protestors would occasionally express their intention to stay for long periods, but this did not always materialize. Acting Superintendent Drummond did not articulate any concerns about the OPS' approach to planning. He was only being briefed. The briefing was focused on planning and did not get into intelligence.

Acting Superintendent Drummond does not recall anyone raising concerns about the OPS' plan during either of the January 26 or 28 briefings.

Police Liaison Team and Public Order Unit Representative

Acting Superintendent Drummond assumed a formal role in the response to the Convoy on February 7, 2022 when Superintendent Patterson asked him to be the Police Liaison Team (**PLT**) and Public Order Unit (**POU**) representative within the Incident Command System (**ICS**). His role was to oversee those groups. Staff Sergeant John Ferguson was the lead for the PLT at that time. Inspector Michel Marin was the POU lead at that time.

Acting Superintendent Drummond understands the role of PLT through training and he is familiar with negotiation processes. He had successful smaller events integrating PLT. He did not have experience using PLT for events with a size and scale like the convoy demonstration. He understood that PLT were to work with protestors, negotiate with them and try to come to a peaceful resolution. They are not responsible for gathering intelligence although they would communicate any immediate public safety concerns. In addition, Acting Superintendent Drummond did not have POU training, especially as a POU Commander.

Executive Liaison

On February 10, Acting Superintendent Bernier was appointed Event Commander. After February 10, Acting Superintendent Drummond also played an executive liaison role. In that role, he acted as a go-between the executive and Acting Superintendent Bernier. It was a new role that was meant to allow Acting Superintendent Bernier to focus on operations.

In that role Acting Superintendent Drummond would inform Acting Superintendent Bernier when Chief Sloly was attempting to direct operations. The Chief repeatedly attempted to direct operations and did not always follow the chain of command. Acting Superintendent Drummond is aware that Acting Superintendent Bernier asked to be allowed to operate with more autonomy.

While Acting Superintendent Drummond had limited direct contact with Chief Sloly, he attended a number of group meetings where Chief Sloly gave operational directions. It was typical for Chief Sloly to make requests for enforcement during this time period. This would normally be within the purview of the Incident Commander or the Event Commander. Acting Superintendent Drummond explained that it was not uncommon that in a meeting the Chief would provide direction or an opinion on operational matters. Acting Superintendent Drummond acknowledged that it was unusual that a Chief would direct enforcement at the operational level. Normally this would flow through the regular chain of command, but this did not occur.

Police Liaison Team Negotiations

Acting Superintendent Drummond took detailed notes throughout the relevant time period.[1]

On February 7, 2022 at 5:40 PM, Acting Superintendent Drummond received a call from Staff Sergeant Ferguson. At this time, Acting Superintendent Drummond was newly overseeing the PLT. It was reported to him that the PLT was having conversations with the objective of opening up the intersection at Rideau and Sussex by moving trucks from that intersection onto Wellington. Acting Superintendent Drummond advised that he would discuss with Superintendent Patterson. Superintendent Patterson wanted more information on the number of trucks that would be moving from Rideau and Sussex onto Wellington. There were thirty-eight trucks involved.

Moving these trucks was being considered as there was space available on Wellington. The protesters had expressed to the PLT an interest in moving closer to Parliament Hill. Other protesters had expressed an interest in leaving, but they were blocked in by those who did not. The OPS was interested in shrinking the protests' footprint and opening up the Rideau and Sussex intersection as it is an important artery for commerce, emergency vehicles and for access to the Rideau Centre.

The OPS was weighing issues around this proposal and was negotiating with protesters. Acting Superintendent Drummond understood that the protester group was fractured and not all participants in that area were aligned.

The same day, at 7:30 PM, Acting Superintendent Drummond received another call from Staff Sergeant Ferguson. He indicated that Tom Marazzo wanted to meet with an official from the City of Ottawa. In exchange, he promised that he would convince the trucks at the Rideau and Sussex intersection to move to Wellington.

On February 8, 2022 at 9:00 AM, Acting Superintendent Drummond and Superintendent Patterson had a call about these negotiations. This would have been reported up to then Deputy Chief Bell and possibly Acting Deputy Chief Ferguson. Acting Superintendent Drummond does not recall whether the PPS was ultimately notified of these negotiations, although it may have been brought up at the NCRCC, where the PPS has representation.

At 10:40 AM, Staff Sergeant Ferguson advised Acting Superintendent Drummond that PLT had arranged a meeting between City Manager Steve Kanellakos and Tom Marazzo at City Hall to discuss the possibility of moving trucks out of the downtown core. Acting Superintendent Drummond was not present at this meeting. According to Acting Superintendent Drummond, OPS officers facilitated but did not attend this meeting. He never received a briefing on what occurred during the meeting as the OPS was not a participant. The meeting ended around 2:30PM.

[1] OPS00014455.

Acting Superintendent Drummond was not aware that Mr. Kanellakos was told the meeting was meant to assist with a breakdown in communications between PLT and protestors. Acting Superintendent Drummond recalls that PLT were in constant contact with protestors. There was never a break down in communications.

Acting Superintendent Drummond was advised that Mr. Marazzo had left the meeting to go to the intersection of Rideau and Sussex and move the trucks at that location pursuant to his agreement with the PLT. Mr. Marazzo was not successful. It is Acting Superintendent Drummond's understanding that the Farfaada group was located at Rideau and Sussex. They are distinct from the main Freedom Convoy group that included Mr. Marazzo. Although the Freedom Convoy group initially said they represented all protesters, it became clear that they did not.

Acting Superintendent Drummond had had an earlier discussion with Superintendent Patterson during which Superintendent Patterson had indicated that he had raised this plan with Chief Sloly, who did not approve of moving these vehicles onto Wellington. Acting Superintendent Drummond did not speak to Chief Sloly about this but understood he had asked to delay this so that other options to clear the intersection could be considered. Acting Superintendent Drummond understood that the direction not to allow the move came directly from Chief Sloly.

Acting Superintendent Drummond understood that according to the ICS this decision was within Superintendent Patterson's authority as Event Commander. However, Chief Sloly gave a direction to Superintendent Patterson. Superintendent Patterson provided Acting Superintendent Drummond with that direction and they complied. It was unusual for a chief to be giving this type of direction directly.

Acting Superintendent Drummond and Superintendent Patterson had a further discussion about options to clear the Rideau and Sussex intersection on February 9, 2022. They considered the importance of clearing the intersection and the risk of creating more issues on Wellington if vehicles were relocated there. They ultimately decided to wait and to continue negotiations with the objective of getting trucks to leave voluntarily instead of relocating them. Acting Superintendent Drummond does not know if any discussions were held with federal officials to advise them that moving more trucks onto Wellington was being considered.

Acting Superintendent Drummond was reporting these negotiations to Superintendent Patterson, the event commander. He was not reporting this directly to senior leadership.

The PLT continued to negotiate with protesters. As of February 10, 2022, Superintendent Drummond had not heard anything from the City of Ottawa (the **City**) regarding any further discussions with protesters.

At 9:35 AM on February 10, 2022, Superintendents Drummond and Patterson met with Inspector Dave Springer of the OPP. He offered to provide his experience with PLT and wanted to continue using PLT to negotiate as opposed to taking POU action. On an

executive team briefing at 11:05 AM, Superintendent Patterson expressed that he did not appreciate Inspector Springer providing this advice.

The afternoon of February 10, 2022, Superintendent Patterson decided to suspend a POU action planned for the following day and, instead, allow the Rideau and Sussex vehicles to move onto Wellington. There was a concern that the POU operation would impact other locations and that the OPS did not have sufficient resources for this operation to succeed. Superintendents Patterson and Drummond authorized PLT to continue negotiating for vehicles at the Rideau and Sussex intersection to move onto Wellington, with the objective of shrinking the footprint. Acting Superintendent Drummond does not know if Chief Sloly was informed or if he agreed.

The City's Deal with Protesters

Acting Superintendent Drummond first learned through an executive briefing on February 13, 2022 at 1:15 PM that the City had been negotiating with protesters. He understood that they had reached an agreement to remove all trucks south of Wellington and all trucks on SJAM. It was not mentioned at this meeting where these vehicles would relocate. In light of the PLT's own experience, Acting Superintendent Drummond did not think that the group at the intersection of Rideau and Sussex would leave.

That day at 2:53 PM, Acting Deputy Chief Patricia Ferguson asked Acting Superintendent Drummond to act as a liaison with the City. She asked him to work with the City to find out what the arrangement was. He was to report back to Acting Superintendent Bernier, the event commander, and Acting Deputy Ferguson. Acting Superintendent Drummond's role was to learn about the City's agreement and to ensure public safety in its implementation, including by developing a traffic plan. His role did not include advising on the appropriateness of the deal or negotiating the terms of the deal.

Acting Superintendent Bernier expressed concerns about the City negotiating an agreement separate from OPS. There was also some concern that it was unlikely that organizers could be trusted to abide by the agreement. There was also a concern that the movement of these vehicles would use up significant OPS resources and send the message that protesters were permitted to stay (which was contrary to OPS messaging at the time). Acting Superintendent Drummond expects that Acting Superintendent Bernier would have expressed these concerns with the chain of command.

Acting Superintendent Drummond also discussed the deal with OPP PLT Giselle Walker. She had the same concerns about the City negotiating outside of PLT. Chief Sloly did not express concerns about the City's deal to Acting Superintendent Drummond.

At 4:46 PM, Chief Sloly contacted Acting Superintendent Drummond to ask him to attend a meeting at City Hall the evening of February 13, 2022. The meeting started at 5:35 PM. The attendees were Steve Kanellakos, Kim Ayotte, Tom Marazzo, Chris Barber, Joe

Jansen, Eva Chipiuk, and Ryan Olson. The meeting focused on how the movement of vehicles would function.

Acting Superintendent Drummond understood his role was to listen, raise any concerns the OPS might have (ex. public safety concerns, logistical concerns when facilitating the agree-to terms, etc.) and report back to Superintendent Bernier. He was not given instructions to challenge or modify the agreement. The negotiation was between the City and the protesters. OPS was not a party to these negotiations and was merely assisting with the agreement's implementation.

At the meeting, Acting Superintendent Drummond asked questions about the plan and what would be done once Wellington was full with remaining vehicles. Acting Superintendent Drummond recalls that during the meeting the protestors admitted that they didn't have control or influence over the group at Coventry and that they would need to speak to Mike Clark who was a leader at that location. They agreed that Coventry posed a safety concern (because of the amount of fuel there). They also conceded that they did not exercise control or influence over Farfaada, the group located at Rideau and Sussex. The agreement included removing trucks from these locations but there was an acknowledgement by protest leadership at the meeting that they did not have control over these areas. Acting Superintendent Drummond asked what would happen to vehicles that did not leave and the response was that they would do the best they could.

Acting Superintendent Drummond asked what would happen to the trucks that did not fit on Wellington. He did not believe that all the trucks would fit. The response was that they would try to fit as many trucks as possible (between Bay and Wellington and Wellington and Elgin) and that other trucks could leave and go to locations outside the City. Chris Barber wanted to make the gaps between the trucks on Wellington tighter so that more vehicles could fit. They were going to speak to protesters to see if they could make more space on Wellington. The protesters agreed to maintaining a lane open for emergency vehicles.

Acting Superintendent Drummond understood that certain protesters were unable to leave despite wanting to or felt pressured not to leave. The plan was meant to ensure that anyone who wanted to leave had the opportunity to do so.

Protest organizers wanted to be allowed to bring in more fuel to keep trucks running. Acting Superintendent Drummond would not agree to this.

The protest organizers agreed that they would speak with truckers to start moving vehicle the next day. The OPS would coordinate this with a traffic plan and PLT. It would be a controlled movement with trucks either moving onto Wellington or leaving entirely.

Acting Superintendent Drummond asked the protest organizers what it would take for them to leave. They said they wanted to meet with federal government officials and the Prime Minister. Acting Superintendent Drummond responded that he did not control this and that they could not stay in Ottawa forever. He was trying to clearly communicate to

them that they would not be permitted to stay on Wellington indefinitely. At this time, Acting Superintendent Drummond understood that planning for POU action was under way but still awaiting the arrival of additional resources. He made it clear to them that this deal would not prevent future POU action.

After the meeting ended at 7:20 PM, Acting Superintendent Drummond reported to Acting Superintendent Bernier and Acting Deputy Chief Ferguson. He told them that trucks would be moving onto Wellington and that those that didn't fit would have to leave. Acting Superintendent Bernier advised that he would make PLT and traffic units available to assist with the move. There were still concerns but Acting Superintendent Bernier and Acting Deputy Chief Ferguson were hopeful that this would help shrink the footprint. Acting Superintendent Drummond did not report directly to Chief Sloly but expects Acting Deputy Chief Ferguson would have.

The deal was to move the trucks to Wellington. Acting Superintendent Drummond believes that Chief Sloly would have known this as it was clear from the Mayor's letter, it was discussed with Acting Superintendent Bernier and Acting Deputy Chief Ferguson, and the movement of the trucks was shown on television.

At 9:30 AM on February 14, 2022, Acting Superintendent Drummond provided an update on his meeting at City Hall during executive briefing. Chief Sloly was present.

At 10:23 AM, Acting Superintendent Drummond called Mr. Kanellakos to advise that the various protester groups were not on board with the deal yet and that PLT were working with them. The Mayor's office had hoped for movement that morning but Acting Superintendent Drummond explained that this was a big logistical task. Getting all protestor groups on board was the main impediment.

By 1:00 PM, movement trucks began moving from O'Connor to Wellington. Acting Superintendent Drummond provided an update to Mr. Kanellakos and Kim Ayotte. The problem became that trucks started running out of room on Wellington with many more residential areas needed to be cleared. Acting Superintendent Drummond had not heard any concerns about this movement at this time.

None of the trucks moved anywhere other than on Wellington. They were not leaving and did not follow through the arrangement to leave the City. Some groups did not move at all. The protest leadership clearly had not achieved the consensus they claimed they were going to have. The PLT also understood that the deal was for truck movement over 24-hours, which had elapsed. Acting Superintendent Drummond also explained that there were concerns that some persons were not allowed to leave.

Acting Superintendent Drummond understands that between 30 to 40 trucks were moved to Wellington as a result of the City's deal. It was not a significant number as there was not much room to fit more trucks there.

At 10AM on February 15, 2022, Acting Superintendent Drummond learned from Kim Ayotte that the City had been informed that OPS had stopped moving trucks to Wellington and shifted focus to getting people to leave voluntarily. Acting Superintendent Drummond understood that the reason for this was that Wellington had filled up and that the *Emergencies Act* had been invoked. The OPS wanted to see if the regulations, once enacted, would have an impact on eventual enforcement action. Acting Superintendent Drummond explained this to Kim Ayotte.[2] The City was interested in continuing the movement of trucks but Acting Superintendent Drummond said this was not going to be happening and that the focus would instead be on encouraging people to leave entirely. Acting Superintendent Drummond explained that no specific decision was made to this effect by chain of command, but it was agreed-to with PLT that there was simply no more room on Wellington. He stated that he made the decision for the movement of the February 12 deal to stop as there was no room on Wellington to do so. He acknowledges that he was not on a ground and that maybe a few more trucks may have been able to fit on Wellington.

At 11:20 AM then Deputy Chief Bell called Acting Superintendent Drummond to direct him to continue moving trucks onto Wellington the City's agreement. He believes he told then Deputy Chief Bell they would try to make it work. Acting Superintendent Drummond can't recall if he told then Deputy Chief Bell that Wellington was full. Acting Superintendent Drummond assumes that the City had asked then Deputy Chief Bell to continue the movement of vehicles onto Wellington.

At 12:00 PM, Acting Superintendent Drummond attended a meeting with Integrated Command Table. Then Deputy Chief Bell did not attend. Acting Superintendent Bernier announced a three-phase approach for clearing the protest areas. Acting Superintendent Drummond believes he told the group that then Deputy Chief Bell had directed that OPS continue to facilitate the movement of trucks onto wellington. The Integrated Command Table's position was that the City's agreement should no longer be facilitated and that the approach to the City's agreement should be clarified.

During this meeting, someone made a comment about "political direction" from the City and Inspector Springer raised political interference as an issue. Acting Superintendent Drummond contacted Mr. Ayotte after the meeting and explained that the movement of trucks onto Wellington couldn't continue and explained why, Mr. Ayotte understood..

During this meeting, it was also raised that the PPS was not consulted about the move of trucks onto Wellington. They had raised this with the OPS through the NCRCC.

At 1:29 PM, Acting Superintendent Drummond called Acting Deputy Chief Ferguson and Acting Superintendent Bernier contacted then Deputy Chief Bell to inform them that they would not continue moving trucks to Wellington. They wanted opportunity to look at the measures available under the *Emergencies Act* and to do enforcement at a later date.

[2] OTT00030048.0001.